

Re: Willow School Water Testing

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

Public Act 99-922 requires that all Pre-K through Grade 5 schools built before January 1, 2000 be tested for the level of lead in the water. This requirement includes every water outlet that could be used for drinking or food preparation. The tests must be performed before January 1, 2018. As a result, all specified water outlets in each District facility were assessed as per the requirement. A total of 164 samples from 82 water outlets were tested. In accordance with the lead testing guidelines in this new Illinois law, action must be taken to address any outlet(s) that present a lead level greater than 5 parts per billion (ppb).

How the Water Was Tested:

Two samples were taken from each outlet in each school: a “*first draw*” sample consisting of water that had been in the outlet’s lines between 8-18 hours and then a “*second draw*” sample that was collected immediately after the outlet was flushed for 30 seconds. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the most common source of lead in drinking water is the result of water sitting for an extended amount of time in pipes assembled with solder containing lead, and fixtures with bronze or brass components.

All samples were analyzed by PDC Laboratories, an EPA accredited organization that performs analytical testing. The EPA’s Method 200.8 “Lead in Drinking Water” was performed on all samples. The USEPA recommends a threshold of 20 parts per billion for required action, while the Illinois Public Act 99-922 sets a much lower threshold of 5 parts per billion.

The EPA’s website on Basic Information on Lead in Drinking Water can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

School Results:

The results for **Willow School** /outlets containing lead levels of 5 ppb or higher.

Sample Location	Outlet Type	1 st Sample Results (before flush)	2 nd Sample Results (after flush)
Room #1	Utility Sink	12 ppb	0 ppb
Room #2	Utility Sink	12 ppb	0 ppb
Room #3	Utility Sink	14 ppb	0 ppb

The Resolution:

Establishment of a water management plan, including identification of plumbing containing lead, scheduled flushing, cleaning and maintenance, fixture replacement, and monitoring is the recommended course of action from the EPA and IDPH. A daily flushing procedure has already been put in place to address all affected classroom outlets (sinks) and kitchen outlets (sinks) in our schools. Our maintenance staff has taken immediate action and disconnected any affected drinking outlets (fountains) until they can be replaced and retested.

The safety and well-being of students is our first priority. If you need further information, your child’s principal is a great resource regarding this matter and questions about your specific school.

Sincerely,

Bill Link, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools